

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE STATEMENT FOR INDIA CONSORTIUM

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 9306; (B) STATE 150566

1. THERE FOLLOWS AGREED TEXT OF BILATERAL AID SECTION OF
SUBJECT STATEMENT FOR CONSORTIUM MEETING:

THE U.S. ALSO WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE BILATERAL FOOD
ASSISTANCE UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE I DEPENDING ON INDIA'S
NEEDS AND U.S. COMMODITY AND BUDGETARY AVAILABILITY.

IN U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1977 WE ARE PROVIDING 34 MILLION
DOLS IN VEGETABLE OIL TO MEET INDIA'S SUBSTANTIAL SHORTFALL
IN DOMESTIC AVAILABILITY. GIVEN THE EXCELLENT FOOD GRAIN
POSITION, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR P.L. 480 WHEAT.

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FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR, WE ARE NOT MENTIONING A
SPECIFIC LEVEL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTIES
ABOUT THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN THE U.S. AND INDIA.

UNDER THE TITLE II PROGRAM WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE
HIGHLY NUTRITIONAL FOOD FOR DISTRIBUTION BY U.S. VOLUNTARY

AGENCIES AND THEIR INTERMEDIARY ORGANIZATIONS IN INDIA TO NEEDY GROUPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH AGREEMENTS REACHED WITH CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES. DURING U.S. FISCAL YEAR 1978 WE ARE PROPOSING 88 MILLION DOLS FOR TITLE II FOOD PLUS 15 MILLION DOLS IN OCEAN TRANSPORTATION COSTS. THIS FOOD WILL ASSIST 16 MILLION RECIPIENTS UNDER CHILD-FEEDING AND FOOD-FOR-WORK PROGRAMS.

THE ACTUAL AMOUNTS PROVIDED UNDER BOTH TITLE I AND TITLE II OF PL 480 WILL DEPEND UPON COMMODITY AVAILABILITIES, BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS, LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS AND INDIA'S FOOD NEEDS DURING THE COMING YEAR.

WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS REGARDING BILATERAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SO DESIRES. BOTH HOUSES OF THE U.S. CONGRESS NOW HAVE APPROVED PROPOSALS WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE UP TO 60 MILLION DOLS FOR INDIA IN FY 1978 UNDER THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

2. FYI - STATEMENT INCLUDES DOLLAR FIGURES FOR P.L. 480 TITLE II AND DEVELOPMENT LENDING IN FY 78. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH TO CITE THE TITLE I FIGURES INDICATED IN THE FY 78 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION BECAUSE OF THE GENUINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNCERTAINTIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN THE U.S. AND INDIA. THESE FIGURES WERE NOTIONAL AND IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO PLUG THEM INTO THE CONSORTIUM RACK-UP. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT INDIA WILL NEED P.L. 480 WHEAT IN FY 78. WHILE THEY MAY NEED VEGOIL, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO INDICATE VEGOIL QUANTITIES FOR FY 78 AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT U.S. AVAILABILITIES. CHRISTOPHER

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